How could we suggest threatening the tools growers have at their disposal. That is why it is imperative that Karen informed us her entire orchard in jeopardy. Karen's story mimics the thousands of reports my colleagues and I have heard from growers across this country. Karen, like many farmers, have heard from growers across this state of agriculture today. I want to thank Senator Hagel and his staff for their work on this legislation which reflects the input of a number of agriculture groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation.

When the Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act in 1996, the idea was to update our pesticide laws so that our farmers could continue to produce the safest and most economical food supply in the world. FQPA eliminated the outdated zero-tolerance Delaney clause for pesticide residues and provided the EPA a framework to review and approve pesticides based on the best available science. And, as several of my colleagues have suggested, improper application of the FQPA to household pest controls could create a host of health hazards for children and the elderly. For example, there is a real threat that current FQPA implementation could eliminate the use of some household insecticides and repellants. As many of you know, children and the elderly are susceptible to disease, often carried by cockroaches and other insects. Improper control of these pests could equate to serious health hazards across the nation, a scenario none of us predicted with the passage of FQPA.

Without question, the United States is the best scientific evidence available to make certain all decisions and tolerance standards are healthy and equitable.